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Of present interest is the author's naïve story of the addition of the border lands, since the beginning of the eighteenth century, at which date the dual empire had essentially natural boundaries. In addition to "purely political and military events," speech, faith and culture came into play and highways of trade added their bond. Movement took place toward Italy to secure the southern outlets of the Alps. North of the Carpathians organic connection is not claimed, but military and political necessity and the petroleum fields are the avowed motives. Similar considerations are at hand to explain the acquirement of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Racial and confessional groupings receive considerable discussion, together with domestic and foreign politics and the industrial life. The historic mission of the empire is that of a border watchman and bearer of western culture. The league between Germany and Austria-Hungary is based on central positions, neighborly contact and common exposure to the Russian. The desire to construct a geographical basis is plain from the following: "The picture of geographic inclosure which showed us the unity of the central lands is in no way marred by the added border lands, and the monarchy can appeal to good geographic foundations for its present boundaries." The essay as a whole is somewhat discounted by the appearance of special pleading in view of present conditions. It is the old cry against Pan Slavism, accented by current feelings and events.

A. P. BRIGHAM.

L'Adriatico: Studio geografico, storico e politico. By [* * *]. 404 pp. Fratelli Treves, Milan, 1915. 6½ x 10.

An anonymous patriot presents here arguments in favor of Italian sovereignty over the Adriatic's east coast. His idea is largely based on geographical and historical considerations; and his discussion is lightened by touches of the romantic history of the ancient coastlands or by absorbing descriptions of their present state. In one respect the author is, perhaps, too sanguine. The establishment of Italian trade relations with the Balkan Peninsula does not so much imply conquest of the Adriatic as it demands surmounting the Dinaric mountain obstruction. Furthermore, as a channel of Balkan trade, the Adriatic has never competed with the Danube and it is doubtful if it ever will.

The numerical preponderance of Slavs in Dalmatia fails to disturb the writer's views on national expansion. To him a whole chain of imposing ruins along the scenic coast bears witness of Roman splendor. Trade is almost entirely in Italian hands. He might well have added that Roman law governs the land. Upon these elements Italian influence in the region rests paramount at present. Its maintenance is advocated with fair appreciation of Slav interests. The reader will be impressed by the open-mindedness of the whole work.

The Russian Problem. By Paul Vinogradoff. 44 pp. G. H. Doran, New York, 1915. 75 cents. 9 x 5½.

The author divides his book into two parts: the first, entitled, "Russia After the War"; the second, "Russia, The Psychology of a Nation."

Vinogradoff considers the geographical principle, as applied to Europe, that "social progress starts from countries with a well-differentiated seaboard and gradually spreads to the more massive continental blocks." He continues: "Eventually these blocks of hinterland may prove more fertile and rich in culture than the tracts which have assumed the initiative; but it is in river deltas, in peninsulas, and in islands that the movement of civilization originates."

The economic condition of the farming class in Russia is discussed; and it is pointed out that the Russian farmers already are forming coöperative societies. But there are several factors which act against the farmer. Among these things which ought to be remedied are: police interference, which should be removed; a poor law to help the poor; credit, to aid the farmer and other industries; the masses should be educated. There is also needed a reform in the manner of election of the House of Lords—the Council of the Empire; a betterment in the civil service; and a firm Habeas Corpus Act. W. G. B.